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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 09/852,106 | 05/09/2001 | Gerhard Frisch | 514413-3874 | 5020 |
| 20999 | 7590 | 07/01/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG 745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL. NEW YORK, NY 10151 | | | PRYOR, ALTON NATHANIEL | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1616 | |

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/852,106 | FRISCH ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Alton N. Pryor | 1616 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8, 13-16, 19, 20, 22, 25-28 and 31-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8, 31-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7, 13-16, 19, 20, 22 and 25-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's RCE arguments filed 2/13/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

I. Rejection of claims 1-4,6,7,13-16,22,25-28 and 21-24 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Firsch on record will be maintained for reasons on record and reasons as follows. Applicant argues that Firsch does not teach or suggest that the electrostatic interaction between an agrochemical active having cationic functional groups with an anionic polymer which result in the control release of the active. Examiner argues that although Firsch does not explicitly state that there exist a cationic / anionic electrostatic interaction between the active and polymer to result in control release of the active, this is an inherent property of the composition since Firsch suggests the instant combination of the exact ingredients elected. Applicant argues that Firsch's combination does not provide the slow release mechanism. Like in instant claims, Firsch teaches a method / combination comprising ligninsulfonate and glufosinate. The ligninsulfonate and glufosinate in the prior art would have the same structural functionality as the ligninsulfonate and glufosinate in the instant invention. Therefore, it is inherent that the prior art method would exhibit control release property caused by an electrostatic interaction between the two molecules as well as increase crop selectivity when applied to the crop.

II. Rejection of claims 5,19,20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Firsch on record will be maintained for reasons on record and reasons as follows. See argument supporting the maintenance of 35 USC 102(b) rejection above.

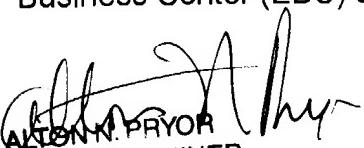
III. Elected invention comprising ligninsulfonate and glufosinate is not allowable. See art rejection above.

Telephonic Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alton N. Pryor whose telephone number is 703 308-4691. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jose Dees can be reached on 703 308-4628. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


ALTON N. PRYOR
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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AU 1616